

XXXVI.—On the Panda of Sze-chuen.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

THE Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) was recorded from Sze-chuen, Western China, many years ago by M. Pousargues, but neither he nor any other author appears to have made a comparison between the Chinese and Himalayan specimens.

The British Museum now owes to the generosity of Mr. F. W. Styan a fine example of the Sze-chuen Panda, and on comparing its skull with a series from Nepal and Sikim, I find that it is so much larger as to deserve subspecific distinction.

In honour of its donor, to whom we owe so large a proportion of our Chinese collection, I propose to call it

Ailurus fulgens Styani, subsp. n.

Colour and proportions very much as in the true *fulgens*, although the anterior back is less noticeably darker than the middle back, the back of the ears is less conspicuously black, and there is rather less white on the cheeks and round the eyes. But I doubt if any of these differences will prove constant, as the Himalayan specimens vary in all of them.

Skull conspicuously larger than in *A. fulgens*, and especially far more inflated in the frontal region. While the frontal profile in *fulgens*, from nasal to vertex, is only slightly convex, in *Styani* it is conspicuously swollen, owing to the large frontal sinuses; thus in *Styani* the measurement, taken with callipers, from the hinder part of the palate to the most prominent part of the forehead is no less than 46 millim., while in *fulgens* it is only about 37. Brain-case more swollen anteriorly in *Styani*, so that the outline, as viewed from above, is more parallel-sided, instead of the even contraction forwards found in *A. fulgens*. Zygomatic stout and strong, widely spreading; continued backwards above the meatus as a broad upcurved ledge, far more developed than in *fulgens*. Posterior palate broad, the posterior nares widely open. Bullæ low and flat, but little inflated. Lower jaw with the coronoid process very large, broadly spatulate, higher, broader above, and narrower below than in *fulgens*.

Teeth large and powerful throughout. Upper anterior premolar large, triangular, with a large internal process.

Dimensions of the type (measured in skin):—

Head and body 610 millim.; tail 405; hind foot (s. u.) (wet) 112; ear (wet) 60.

Skull: greatest length 115; basal length 98; zygomatic

breadth 88; interorbital breadth 31; palate length from gnathion 54; breadth of posterior palate 13·3; lower jaw, top of coronoid to lower side of angular process 55; coronoid, height from level of condyle 28·5, breadth at same point 17·5. Teeth: combined breadth of upper incisors 15, combined length of upper check-teeth 37.

Hab. of type. Yang-liu-pa, N.W. Sze-chuen.

Type. Old male. B.M. no. 2. 6. 10. 41. Killed 14th June, 1897. Presented by F. W. Styan, Esq.

The large size of the head, and especially the greatly swollen forehead, makes the skull of this animal look very different to the comparatively flattened skull of *A. fulgens*. But although at least two are old, yet none of our Himalayan skulls are quite so old as the Sze-chuen one; and on this account I do not venture to distinguish Mr. Styan's animal as a separate species, on the chance that intergradations may occur, and older specimens of the Himalayan Panda show some tendency to the swollen character of the skull of *Styani*.

XXXVII.—*Notes from the Gatty Marine Laboratory, St. Andrews.*—No. XXIII. By Prof. M'INTOSH, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., &c.

[Plate VI.]

1. Further Note on abnormally-coloured Plaice (a specimen with white spots).
2. On the Example of *Regalecus glesne*, Ascan., in the Museum of the University.
3. On Sharks &c. captured in Nets at St. Andrews.
4. On British *Nereidæ* and *Staurocephalidæ*.
5. On the *Nereidæ* of the 'Porcupine' Expedition.
6. On Canadian *Nereidæ* dredged by Dr. Whiteaves in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.
7. On Norwegian *Nereidæ* collected by Canon Norman, D.C.L. &c.

1. *Further Note on abnormally-coloured Plaice (a specimen with white spots).*

This example is considerably larger than the peculiarly-pigmented or piebald forms described in the last note. It measures 17 inches in length and fully 9 inches in breadth. The ground-colour of the dorsum and the white under (left) surface are normal, and the external structure presents no peculiarity. Instead of the ordinary red spots on the dorsum,